

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2006

1:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Ken Kraft offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Walker, Petersen, Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris and McCrackin. Members absent at roll call: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Chris Hyzer, Richard Reeves, Mike Williams, Andrew Garlick, Shelly Strautz, and John Berchtold.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the January 23, 2006, regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the agenda with the removal of the 1:30 agenda item and the addition of #1 under Old Business entitled *Rescue Vehicle and First Responders*. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Richard Reeves addressed the board regarding the 1:45 agenda item. He asked the board to review his correspondence prior to taking action on the Mapping GIS/Land Information Systems office.

Missy Hetherington, Controller's office, provided the board with seven Eagle Scout Resolutions. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve and adopt **RESOLUTIONS 2006-01** through **2006-07** for Dean Looyengood, Ryan Roselle, John Waldron, Drew Newell, Jason Perry, Ryan Bennett and Alexander Smith. Motion carried.

A letter regarding a delayed ambulance response to Howard City, and the possible placement of an ambulance base at the Howard City VFW, was received from Dennis Stewart. In his letter, Mr. Stewart alleged that it took 45 minutes for a first responder to arrive on scene after a woman suffered a cardiac episode at the Howard City VFW, and one hour for an ambulance to arrive. Mr. Stewart is proposing the utilization of the Veteran's Relief Fund to place an ambulance at the Howard City VFW hall. The board was given a letter from Jerry McCoy that included the response times on this particular call. The log sheet showed that first responders were on scene within 3 minutes. Mr. McCoy explained that all four Montcalm County ambulances were tied up with other calls at the time, therefore Newaygo County was dispatched to the VFW hall. Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner McCrackin to place the letters from Dennis Stewart and Jerry McCoy on file. Motion carried.

John Berchtold presented the board with a draft of the Land Use and Policies that is before the Planning Commission. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to place the Land Use and Policies draft on file. Motion carried.

John Berchtold presented the board with proposed changes to the Agreement to Establish a Montcalm County Central Dispatch Authority Agreement. Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2006-08**:

WHEREAS, Montcalm County and the City of Greenville have combined their dispatch operations into a new authority, called the "Montcalm County Central Dispatch Authority" ("MCCDA") by passage of an "Agreement to Establish a Montcalm County Central Dispatch Authority" ("Agreement");

WHEREAS, the Board determines that the two minor changes to the Agreement would improve efficiencies or the effectiveness of the MCCDA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 2.4 of the Agreement is modified to replace the current language with the following:

2.4 "Fiscal year" refers to the period of time in which the Budget shall be effective and shall be coterminous with the fiscal year of Montcalm County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 3.2A(1) is modified to replace the 7th sentence with the following:

All members shall serve without recompense from the Authority unless pursuant to a per diem policy that is contained in the Authority's bylaws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in all other respects the provisions of the Agreement are ratified.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Baker provided the board with a recommendation for appointment to the Montcalm County Housing Commission. Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Paepke to appoint Chris Poprawski to the Montcalm County Housing Commission. Motion carried.

Commissioner Paepke provided the board with information regarding the 2006 NACO Conference in Illinois. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the NACO conference registration on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve consent agenda items 7 through 10 and 15 through 18 move stated action:

Controller's Office	911 Plan Amendment	Place on file
Helen Hamler	EMS	Place on file
RWG	Notice of Termination of Contract	Place on file
Scott Minard, Building Official	January 2006 Dodge Report	Place on file
Controller's Office	Collective Bargaining minutes 12-8-05	Place on file
Controller's Office	Collective Bargaining minutes 1-18-06	Place on file
Controller's Office	Collective Bargaining minutes 1-30-06	Place on file
Controller's Office	Collective Bargaining minutes 1-31-06	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to send RWG a letter acknowledging the Notice of Termination they sent the board for their recycling contract with the County. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve additional correspondence item 1 and move stated action:

Probate Court	Re-appointment of Herbert Bergsma	Place on file
---------------	-----------------------------------	---------------

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Baker to fix the marble restoration with Old World Painting. They will paint the west wall of the 3rd floor hallway of the Administration Building for the amount of \$725. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Baker to dispose of the old unused furniture by bid process to County Employees with bid closure and disposal prior to March 13, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to accept the bid specification, as presented, for the Solid Waste recycling program contingent on the Solid Waste Committee approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to accept the ABILITA proposal to switch from AT&T to Qwest for the County's long distance. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Baker to accept the 2006 project list for Economic Development & Physical Resources Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the February 13, 2006, Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to give COA permission to submit the 2007 MDOT Specialized Services grant application in the amount of \$11,631.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to give COA permission to submit the 2007 – 5310 van application . Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the transfer of the Community Corrections Director’s position to the authority of Montcalm County and house the Director within the Sheriff’s office to improve and expedite the programs thus freeing more jail bed space for the more violent offenders in accordance with the Controller’s memo dated February 7, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow the Sheriff Department to purchase a Toshiba “e Studio 450” New Digital Copier machine with the optional 2,500 sheet large capacity cassette from Commercial Equipment Company in the amount of \$6,902.00 with funds to come from Contingency. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow the Sheriff Department to purchase three (3) patrol cars from Stanton Ford at a cost of \$19,999 each and \$15.00 each for title transfer for a total cost of \$60,042 and that the Sheriff be allowed to substitute one patrol vehicle with a Sport Utility Vehicle pending bid submissions and board approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow EMS to bid out the process to refurbish the A-17 unit with bids due back March 10, 2006. The specs are attached to the Finance Committee minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to accept the bid from Dan Dorr to purchase the Lanier 6745 copier for \$50. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to pay the claims on warrant 021306 in the amount of \$328,293.73. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to approve and pay an additional claim for the County’s pension contribution in the amount of \$369,650.61. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the February 13, 2006, Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Commissioner McCrackin addressed concerns expressed by Greg Alexander at the last meeting regarding rescue vehicles. He explained that both rescue vehicles have been repaired and are back in service. Commissioner McCrackin also addressed status of the First Responders. He has spoken with Jerry McCoy and was informed that they will continue to only have one first responder on call.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Retzliff to revoke the recently implemented Emergency Management Services policy to pay only one rescue personnel per call, and return to the previous policy with the exception of a change in the pay schedule. The new pay schedule will be as follows: pay a flat rate of \$20.00 per responder per call (no additional pay for driving the Advanced Life Support Units), with the exception of a “disregard” for which an employee will be paid \$10.00.

Under discussion Commissioner Caris stated that he would like to have this action referred to a committee for review instead of the board taking action today. Commissioner Petersen read a prepared statement regarding this issue. He stated that the EMS administration has indicated that they will not change this policy, therefore if the board disagrees with this policy they must take action to change it.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to postpone this motion until the next meeting. Motion carried with Commissioner Petersen voting no.

At 1:50 p.m. Lori Wilson, Register of Deeds, was in attendance with a Mapping GIS/Land Information Service Office proposal. Ms Wilson started her presentation by showing the board a hand-drawn map of a new development

in Greenville. She explained that it has taken one of her employees 80 hours to hand draw the map and will likely take up to 120 hours to add the drain easements. She also referred to Land Information minutes from 1998 when the issue of mapping originally was brought to the forefront. She stated that there is a real need in the county for a centralized mapping department that could be staffed with people to help the public and other county offices that need access to maps.

Commissioner Retzloff asked what the Land Information Office would provide that isn't currently being provided. He asked if she has provided the information that she needs to the Equalization Department's mapper.

Ms. Wilson stated that the Drain Office was told just last week that Dennis Swain only works part time on mapping and part time on assessing. Given that Mr. Swain is only working part-time on mapping, the needs of other county departments will not be met.

Ms. Wilson stated that if the board is not willing to move forward with a mapping department then she will need to resign as the County Abstractor because she can't do it the way it's being done anymore. Commissioner Retzloff stated that the Board should possibly look in the privatization of the Abstract office. Ms. Wilson wished him luck and informed him that the issue was voted down in 2 to 1 in the early 1990's.

Ms. Wilson asked why the board wouldn't want to use the technology funds to fund mapping instead of having the General Fund pay for this function. She stated that in order to use tech funds, mapping must be under the direction of the Register of Deeds. She stated that she currently has \$100,000 in the tech fund and is anticipating that they will take in another \$100,000 in this year. Ms. Wilson suggested that the old Commissioners room is the ideal location for this function because it is visible, and it will be staffed with people to help the public as well as other offices. It will be an office people can walk into and be waited on by a person with mapping knowledge.

Commissioner Retzloff stated that one of his concerns is that the Register of Deeds is only willing to commit to funding this office for a limited period of time. He stated that he does not feel that this has not been looked into enough to make a decision to move forward.

Ms. Wilson stated that according to attorney Bonnie Toskey, the automation funds can pay for wages but not benefits. It is unknown if it can pay for more than one employee. When asked why the tech fund can't be used to fund the wages of the Register of Deeds office employees, Ms. Wilson informed the board that it can't be used to pay for something that the county already has, it must be an improvement or enhancement to services already provided.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner McCrackin to refer the issue of mapping and a Land Information Services Office to the Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee.

Under discussion Commissioner Petersen stated that he feels the Economic Development & Physical Resources Committee needs more direction or they will be back in the same situation that they were in last year when they brought a proposal to the full board. Commissioner Johansen stated that he will work diligently on this topic if it is referred to his committee. Ms. Wilson stated that the indecision over the creation of this office hasn't been fair to the Abstract Office either. She stated that the board members aren't there on a daily basis to appreciate the importance. She also stated that she would rather have the board turn it down than leave it in limbo.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Johansen, Baker, Caris, McCrackin and Walker. Nays: Commissioners Petersen, Retzloff, Paepke and Carr. Motion carried.

Before leaving the meeting Ms. Wilson stated that she will be back requesting \$5,000 to purchase mapping software.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Baker stated that he will be attending the MAC Conference in the place of John Bertchold.

Chairman Carr stated that he feels that the board owes the Register of Deeds a yes or no answer on the Land Information Office, just as they owe it to Equalization. This can't be left in limbo for another year.

Commissioner Baker stated that the mapping issue died for lack of support in the Finance Committee. That is why it wasn't brought before the full board for a vote.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Baker to adjourn at 2:30p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman